



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**OPERATION STREETSWEEPER**

**MANCHESTER CRACK DEALER SENTENCED TO 37 MONTHS IN PRISON**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** - United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka, announced today that U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro sentenced Mark C. Bennett to thirty-seven months imprisonment for distributing crack cocaine. Bennett, age 44, had previously pleaded guilty to selling crack cocaine on three occasions and powder cocaine on one occasion in Manchester in November 2003. Judge Barbadoro ordered that Bennett serve three years of supervised release after his completing his term of imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono applauded the efforts of the Manchester Police Department and the Attorney General's Drug Task Force, stating, "The Special Investigations Unit of the Manchester Police Department and the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force have a long history of investigating and seeking prosecution of complex drug networks in and around Manchester. They understand and recognize that street level dealers, if left unchecked, pose a real threat to the community. This Operation Streetsweeper case, and many more similar cases, demonstrates that law enforcement within the state are dedicated to the investigation of drug trafficking on all levels, both large and small, in an effort to eradicate drugs from New Hampshire."

This matter was investigated by the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force and the Manchester Police Department as part of Operation Streetsweeper, a federal program administered by the United States Attorney's Office to reduce street-level drug distribution in New Hampshire's large cities. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Morse prosecuted the case.